

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 7, 2024

Geneva, IL –Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham



KANE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE MAILS PERMANENT VOTE BY MAIL INFORMATION TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS

Kane County Clerk John A. Cunningham today stated that an envelope from the Kane County Clerk's Office was mailed this week to all registered voters in Kane County. Included in that envelope is an application for permanent Vote by Mail status and some other information about the November 5 General Election.

The County Clerk's Office is **required to send to all registered voters** an application for permanent Vote by Mail status by state law. The law, **(10 ILCS 5/19-2.5)**, states the following:

Notice for vote by mail ballot. An election authority shall notify all qualified voters, except voters who have applied for permanent vote by mail status under subsection (b) of Section 19-3 or voters who submit a written request to be excluded from the permanent vote by mail status, not more than 90 days nor less than 45 days before a general election of the option for permanent vote by mail status using the following notice and including the application for permanent vote by mail status in subsection (b) of Section 19-3:

"You may apply to permanently be placed on vote by mail status using the attached application."

Cunningham said, "My office has received calls from voters asking about the permanent Vote by Mail application. This is only an **application** to receive a Vote by Mail ballot, **not an actual Vote by Mail ballot**. The state legislature passed a law **requiring my office to mail a notice and a permanent Vote by Mail application to all registered voters** (except those who have already requested permanent Vote by Mail status and those who have submitted a written request to be removed from the list). Some households might receive more than one application because the law requires us to send an application to every registered voter."

Voters who wish to receive Vote by Mail (VBM) ballots for **this election and all future elections** can be placed on permanent vote by mail status by completing, signing, and mailing the application to the Kane County Clerk's Office, or by bringing the signed form to the Clerk's Office.

Cunningham warned voters that they might receive other VBM applications in the mail. State law does not prohibit candidates or parties from sending VBM applications. Cunningham requested that voters who wish to complete the application return only the application sent by the Clerk's Office so that it is mailed directly to the Clerk's Office and not to a candidate or political party.

Only one VBM ballot will be mailed to a single registered voter who has requested the ballot, no matter how many applications are received. VBM ballots are only mailed to registered voters who request them. A returned VBM ballot is accepted by the Clerk's Office only after the voter's signature is verified by a bipartisan team of election judges.

Voters can request a one-time VBM ballot at <https://clerk.kanecountyil.gov/Elections/Pages/Vote-by-Mail.aspx>. Per state law, VBM ballots will not be mailed until September 26.

In addition to the permanent VBM application, Cunningham included information about the newly upgraded voting machines, how to apply to serve as an Election Judge in November, and a flyer that includes information and QR code links about all voting options for the election. The Clerk's Office encourages all registered voters to participate in the November 5 election using whichever manner of voting they prefer.

For more information about the Nov. 5 election, please visit the Clerk's website at clerk.kanecountyil.gov/elections, or follow the Clerk's Office on social media, on Facebook at [@kanecountyclerk](https://www.facebook.com/kanecountyclerk) and X at [@KaneCoILClerk](https://twitter.com/KaneCoILClerk).

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